

Conversations at life's end: reimagining advance care planning in Hong Kong as an intervention

Thursday, 29 May 2014

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Room A824, 8/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Marie Danielle Kobler

Research Officer

Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, HKU

Abstract

Hong Kong has a rapidly aging population and a majority of deaths occur in public hospitals. Poorly developed primary care services and a social and legal context that prevents frail seniors from dying at home result in “revolving door” acute hospital readmissions. Recent attention to advance care planning by the Law Reform Commission has led to development and promotion of model forms for end of life planning, but these have not been granted legislative status.

This talk will reimagine the importance of advance care planning as an intervention by caregivers (1) to educate patients and their families, and (2) to introduce patients into end of life programs, rather than focusing on the adoption of legal documents. Several pilot programs have been developed, from direct transfers to extended-care facilities, to electing to receive end of life care entirely in-hospital or to stay in a residential care home until the final moment before being transferred to a hospital for death. Introducing advance care planning to Hong Kong seniors may be seen as a point of contact to enrol patients in programs offering meaningful clarity about end of life choices, and secondarily as a means to open dialogue between patients, families and clinicians and provide elderly patients a valued opportunity to be heard.

Marie Danielle Kobler is Research Officer at the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law at the University of Hong Kong. She holds a JD from the University of Southern California and a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University. Prior to joining the University of Hong Kong, Marie practiced at two large international law firms in the United States, where she focused on providing transactional and regulatory representation in connection with health and life sciences industry mergers and acquisitions. Marie’s research interests include health care regulation and hospital administration, in particular modernization of care, physician management, and end of life decision making.

Enquiries: Tel: (852) 3917 1845
Email: cmel@hku.hk

Details & Registration:
<http://www.cmel.hku.hk/events/upcoming-events>



Centre for Medical Ethics and Law
The University of Hong Kong